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FOREIGN NEWS ON CITRUS FRUIT

THE CANADIAN MARKET FOR CITRUS FRUIT

The Canadian imports of oranges and lemons during the twelve months ended March 31, 1927, show an increase over those for the corresponding period of 1925-26 but imports of grapefruit declined, according to trade statistics just released by the Canadian Department of Trade and Commerce. Imports of oranges amounted to 2,263,000 boxes as compared with 1,730,000 boxes in 1925-26. Imports of lemons amounted to 386,000 boxes as against 346,000 the year before and grapefruit 2,545,000 boxes as against 2,665,000 boxes the preceding year. The United States is the principal source of supply for the Canadian citrus fruit imports, having furnished during the past year 95 per cent of the grapefruit and oranges, and 82 per cent of the lemons.

Canada also imports small quantities of grapefruit from Jamaica and Cuba and small quantities of oranges from Japan, Mexico and Spain. Considerable quantities of lemons, however, are imported from Sicily. These lemons constitute practically the only competition which American citrus fruit exporters have to meet in the Canadian market. The per capita consumption of citrus fruit in Canada is still considerably below that in the United States. During the past two Canadian fiscal years (April 1 to March 31) the per capita consumption of grapefruit in Canada averaged 1.9 pounds, that of lemons 2.9 pounds, and that of oranges 14.9 pounds per annum. In the United States the per capita consumption of grapefruit averaged, during the years 1924-1926, 5.3 pounds, that of lemons 4.7 pounds and that of oranges 17.3 pounds.

Over three-fifths of the total population of Canada is concentrated in the highly industrialized areas extending along the lower lakes and the St. Lawrence river. The actual per capita consumption in this relatively small area is no doubt somewhat higher than the statistical figure for all of Canada. The leading markets in this area are Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Quebec and Ottawa. The important markets in western Canada are Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon and Vancouver. Each one of these markets serves as a distributing point for surrounding cities of lesser importance.

Oranges and grapefruit

While the United States supplies about 95 per cent of the oranges and grapefruit imported into Canada, a number of other countries contribute small quantities. Mandarin oranges from Japan have been a feature on the Canadian market at Christmas time for many years. Occasionally Mexican oranges are

seen on the market. Small quantities are also imported from Jamaica, and from Spain and Palestine. Orange growers in South Africa and Australia have been looking to the Canadian market as a possible outlet for their increasing production, but the lack of adequate transportation facilities as well as the availability of large sources of supply in California and Florida have thus far prevented competition from these sources. Receipts of American grapefruit in the Canadian market are heaviest during the months November to June inclusive. The small quantities imported from Jamaica and Cuba come in mostly from July to October and do not enter into serious competition with American fruit.

Lemons

American lemon shippers encounter keen competition from Sicily on the Canadian market. Lemons from California are at a considerable disadvantage because of the fact that Sicilian fruit can be sold at cheaper prices. Transportation costs have tended to divide the Canadian lemon market into two sections. Sicilian lemons cannot be disposed of profitably in the markets of western Canada in competition with California lemons because of the expensive rail haul from New York or eastern Canadian points to the Prairie Provinces. Most of the Sicilian lemons imported into Canada, therefore, are marketed in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa, Quebec, and London. The western markets, such as Calgary, Winnipeg, Regina, and Edmonton, carry practically no lemons other than those from California. While regular series of lemon prices on Canadian markets are not available, such quotations as are published indicate that the American product sells at considerably higher prices in the western markets than in the eastern markets where they have to compete with relatively cheap lemons from Sicily.

The bulk of the Canadian imports of Italian lemons come in from June to December. Most of the fruit is landed at American ports and is transshipped into Canada because of the lack of transportation facilities connecting the Canadian and the Sicilian ports. Some Italian lemons are handled via British ports. These usually go into Canada via the St. Lawrence river before the close of navigation on that water route. The Canadian price on the bulk of the Italian lemons is the New York auction price plus the cost of transportation to Canadian markets and middlemen's profits.

Tariffs

Oranges and lemons enter Canada free of duty. Grapefruit from all countries outside of the British Empire, however, is dutiable at the rate of \$1.00 per 100 pounds. Imports from British possessions are granted a preference of \$0.50 per 100 pounds. The preference is particularly advantageous to shippers in Jamaica who ship between three-fourths and one million pounds of grapefruit to Canada annually. South Africa and Australia have requested special tariff preference on oranges but have not been successful in securing such treatment to date.

Transportation costs

The cost of the long rail haul from California and Florida to the markets of eastern and western Canada is an important factor in the competition which the American grower must meet in the Canadian market. The ocean and railroad freight on lemons from Palermo to Montreal works out at \$1.21 per case of 84 pounds gross, while the rate from Los Angeles to Montreal is \$1.26 per case. The freight to Winnipeg, however, favors the California shipper, the cost being \$2.43 per case from Palermo as against only \$1.39 per case from Los Angeles.

Ocean freight rates on citrus fruitOranges and grapefruit

From Kingston to New York\$0.65 per box and \$1.30 per barrel
 From Jamaica outports to New York\$0.75 per box and \$1.50 per barrel
 From Cuba to New York\$0.50 per crate
 From Japan to Vancouver\$4.00 per 40 cubic feet

Lemons

From Palermo to New York\$0.63 per box
 From London to Montreal\$12.15 per measurement ton

Railroad freight rates on citrus fruit

Shipping point	Ordinary space	Under refrigeration
<u>Lemons</u>	<u>Dollars</u> <u>per 100 pounds</u>	<u>Dollars</u> <u>per carload</u>
Los Angeles to New York	1.50	100.00
" " " Montreal	1.50	100.00
" " " Winnipeg	1.65	95.00
New York to Montreal	0.69	55.00
" " " Winnipeg (carload)	2.13	85.00
" " " Winnipeg (less than carload):	2.97	
" " " Quebec	0.73 $\frac{1}{2}$	55.00
<u>Oranges and grapefruit</u>		
Los Angeles to New York	1.55	100.00
" " " Montreal	1.55	100.00
" " " Winnipeg	1.69 $\frac{1}{2}$	95.00
Orlando, Florida, to New York	0.92	70.00
" " " Montreal	1.23	90.00
" " " Winnipeg	1.78 $\frac{1}{2}$	95.00
Key West, " " New York	1.21 $\frac{1}{2}$	70.00
" " " Montreal	1.53	90.00
Vancouver to Montreal	3.98	105.00

CITRUS FRUIT: Imports into Canada, 1925-26 and 1926-27

Month	Grapefruit 1925-26			Grapefruit 1926-27		
	Total	United States	Jamaica	Total	United States	Jamaica
	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds	Pounds
April ...	2,378,420	2,342,500	35,420	1,420,203	1,393,945	12,250
May	2,723,917	2,605,209	118,708	1,470,240	1,429,340	--
June	1,235,366	1,146,881	65,085	1,200,186	1,197,279	--
July	796,100	782,249	13,851	592,549	590,519	2,030
August ...	473,420	473,420	--	612,387	612,387	--
September:	239,997	238,391	1,606	635,460	628,320	6,540
October ..	1,430,660	1,327,423	93,970	1,085,404	1,031,349	45,210
November..	1,602,747	1,407,287	188,275	2,049,251	1,542,723	484,601
December :	1,878,815	1,799,626	61,338	2,324,100	2,182,671	117,630
January ..	1,702,353	1,479,616	178,250	1,597,579	1,514,019	43,555
February :	1,545,518	1,486,344	24,704	1,560,317	1,531,864	9,170
March ...	2,647,907	2,562,982	62,978	3,269,344	3,237,720	25,613
Total ..	18,655,220	17,651,928	844,185	17,817,020	16,892,136	746,599
Month	Oranges 1925-26			Oranges 1926-27		
	Total	United States	Japan	Total	United States	Japan
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
April ...	145,649	144,924	--	155,524	153,908	--
May	157,863	156,821	40	224,453	220,223	--
June	174,052	172,410	--	203,557	202,979	--
July	106,792	106,088	--	165,207	165,144	--
August ...	93,422	92,155	--	173,456	172,456	--
September:	71,323	70,874	--	119,738	119,704	--
October ..	41,779	40,246	--	92,484	92,326	--
November..	40,945	38,033	300	87,056	85,769	--
December..	335,230	257,282	74,516	348,808	255,493	91,866
January ..	149,852	141,141	5,923	210,637	199,105	1,049
February..	159,010	147,266	353	189,485	186,388	976
March ...	253,638	249,778	166	292,964	289,696	151
Total ..	1,729,555	1,617,018	94,042	2,263,369	2,144,191	94,042
Month	Lemons 1925-26			Lemons 1926-27		
	Total	United States	Italy	Total	United States	Italy
	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes	Boxes
April ...	25,265	17,806	7,300	36,845	33,394	3,304
May	32,176	21,354	10,774	50,050	35,009	14,925
June	47,367	19,592	27,262	57,543	31,840	25,703
July	50,223	26,610	23,494	46,615	34,220	12,390
August ...	40,892	20,226	20,406	32,377	29,221	3,141
September:	14,217	6,822	6,539	16,894	15,917	957
October ..	7,304	7,225	--	14,914	13,421	1,493
November..	29,566	20,643	6,552	19,879	18,682	1,152
December..	39,677	24,767	14,319	26,632	23,392	3,100
January...:	16,183	8,536	7,256	23,200	22,593	600
February..	18,497	15,585	2,420	25,198	24,398	800
March ...	24,310	22,042	2,115	35,742	34,839	903
Total...:	345,677	211,208	128,437	385,899	316,926	58,465

